

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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This Week in Canadian Agriculture - Issue 4

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

Variety Registration System Under Federal Review * Canada to End Biofuel Subsidy in 2017 *
Regulations Amending the Canada Grain Regulations * Adventitious Presence of Soy in Grain Products
* Draft Joint FDA / Health Canada Quantitative Assessment of the Risk of Listeriosis from Soft-
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AquAdvantage Salmon Documents * Health Canada Publications * Mayors Bring Food Processing
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This Week in Canadian Agriculture is a review of Canadian agricultural industry developments of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The issues summarized in this report cover a wide range of subject matter obtained from Canadian press reports, government press releases, and host country agricultural officials and representatives.

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Disclaimer: Any press article summaries in this report are included to bring U.S. readership closer to the pulse of Canadian developments in agriculture. In no way do the views and opinions of these sources reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. Government agency's point of view or official policy.

Variety Registration System Under Federal Review: The press is reporting that Canada's federal agriculture minister Gerry Ritz is requesting input from committees on ways to speed up the time it takes to approve new prairie grain varieties. Ritz's request to the Prairie Grain Development Committee comes ahead of planned consultations with industry over the next several months.

The article is available in its entirety at the following URL: <http://www.grainnews.ca/news/prairie-seed-variety-registration-process-under-federal-review/1002106501/>

Canada to End Biofuel Subsidy in 2017: The Canadian press is reporting that the federal government is formally ending its biofuels subsidy program. *The Globe and Mail* newspaper obtained a copy of a letter reportedly sent to industry by Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver on February 21, 2013. In the letter, Oliver states: "The government will not redesign or reopen the ecoEnergy for biofuels programs to new applicants. During this time of fiscal restraint and challenging global fiscal realities, our government has committed to ensuring that we balance our budget."

The *Globe and Mail* article can be read at the following URL: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-ending-biofuels-subsidy-over-unfulfilled-industry-promises/article8983024/>

Regulations Amending the Canada Grain Regulations: The Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) proposed regulations that would establish new user fees which reflect the current role of the CGC. The CGC proposes to update existing fee amounts and provide for an annual adjustment of fees reflective of inflation. The proposed regulations would also consolidate various existing user fees and establish a five-year fee schedule. The proposed regulations are open for comment for 30 days following their February 16, 2013 publication in *The Gazette*. If adopted, the amendments would come into force August 1, 2013. A discussion of the proposal, and the proposed amendments to the regulation, can be found at the following URL:

<http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-02-16/html/reg1-eng.html>

Adventitious Presence of Soy in Grain Products: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Health Canada are advising manufacturers and importers of grain-based products that precautionary labelling for soy is not required on these products when a low level of soy is present due to adventitious presence. Health risk assessments have determined that the low levels of soy due to adventitious presence would not be expected to cause an allergic reaction in the soy allergic community.

More information is available at the following URL: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/labelling/core-requirements/ingredients/allergen-labelling/adventitious-presence-of-soy-in-grain-products/eng/1360691333452/1360691654497>

Draft Joint FDA / Health Canada Quantitative Assessment of the Risk of Listeriosis from Soft-Ripened Cheese Consumption in the United States and Canada: The Government of Canada is collaborating with the Government of the United States to assess the risk posed by *Listeria monocytogenes* in soft-ripened cheese. This collaboration has resulted in the development of a draft joint quantitative assessment that provides estimates of that risk and the effectiveness of measures designed for reduction of the risk.

For a copy of the Joint FDA / Health Canada Quantitative Assessment of the Risk of Listeriosis from Soft-Ripened Cheese Consumption in the United States and Canada, please visit the FDA Web site: <http://www.fda.gov/food/scienceresearch/researchareas/riskassessmentsafetyassessment/#Listeria>

FDA Extends Comment Period on AquaAdvantage Salmon Documents: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced February 13, 2013 that it is extending for 60 days the comment period for the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pertaining to AquaBounty Technologies' application for AquaAdvantage Salmon. The comment period, originally slated to end on Feb. 25, 2013, now runs until April 26, 2013. AquaBounty Technologies is a Canadian based biotech/aquaculture company.

More information is available at the following URL: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/CVMUpdates/ucm339270.htm>

Health Canada Publications: The following are publications from Health Canada released or revised over the month of January 2013:

1. **A Guide for the Preparation of Submissions on Food Additives** (2013 update) Available at the following URL: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/pubs/guide-eng.php>
2. **Food Additive Submission Checklist** Available at the following URL: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/pubs/additive-checklist_additifs-aide-memoire-eng.php
3. **Co-Mingling in Agricultural Grain Products as a Possible Source of Food Allergens.** Available at the following URL: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/allerg/fa-aa/co-mingling-melange-eng.php>

To continue to stay up-to-date on Food and Nutrition web postings and publications, you can subscribe to the Food and Nutrition RSS feed found here: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/feeds-fils/index-eng.php>

Mayors Bring Food Processing Fight to Ottawa:

CBC News reported that a group of Essex County mayors traveled to Parliament Hill to meet with federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. The mayors tried to convince Minister Ritz not to deregulate food packaging sizes. The mayors fear that deregulation will cost their region jobs and market share. In January, the Canadian Food Inspection Authority (CFIA) indicated the intention to launch a formal consultation early in 2013 in order to validate the feedback received from stakeholders during the months following the announcement made last summer to repeal provisions from various food regulations related to container size restrictions.

The CBC news article is available at the following URL:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/story/2013/02/12/wdr-food-processing-mayors-ottawa.html>

CFIA's communicate can be found at this URL:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/processed-products/labelling-and-packaging/container-sizes/eng/1353621089533/1353621169021>

Guidance Document on Classification of Veterinary Drugs and Animals Feeds: A joint Guidance Document on Classification of Veterinary Drugs and Livestock Feeds has been developed in close collaboration between the Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) of Health Canada and the Animal Feed Division of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The purpose of this guidance document is to present guidelines and criteria for classification in order to clarify the regulatory differences between drugs and feeds. It serves to provide transparency on the classification process used by VDD and CFIA. Another objective is to assist sponsors of products destined for use in food-producing or livestock species towards the appropriate regulatory department and submission process.

This consultation is open for comment starting February 6, 2013 until June 6, 2013. For more information please visit the following URL: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/consultation/vet/consultations/classification-eng.php>

Exchange Rate:

Noon rate, February 28, 2013 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C \$ 1.0285

Most Recent Reports from FAS/Ottawa:

Report #	Name of Report	Date Submitted
CA13012	Livestock – Semi-annual	03/01/2013
CA13008	Survey Voluntary – Canadian Consumer Insights	02/08/2013
CA13007	This Week in Canadian Agriculture, Issue 03	2/07/2013
CA13004	Grain and Feed Update	1/28/2013
CA13002	This Week in Canadian Agriculture, Issue 02	1/24/2013
CA12053	This Week in Canadian Agriculture, Issue 01	01/11/2013
CA12052	Food Processing Ingredients Update	12/28/2012
CA12051	Food Service – Hotel Restaurant Institutional 2012	12/27/2012
CA12050	FAIRS Export Certificate Report	12/21/2012
CA12049	Export Guide: A Practical Guide	12/21/2012
CA12045	This Week in Canadian Agriculture, Issue, Issue 21	11/26/2012
CA12044	This Week in Canadian Agriculture, Issue 20	11/13/2012
CA12046	The New Legislative Framework for Animal Traceability	12/03/2012
CA12042	Grain and Feed Annual	10/30/2012
CA12041	Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual	11/02/2012